

## City Emergency Coordinator Is Ready For Crises At Home or Overseas



By Senior Master Sgt. Darendra Rogers  
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David L. McCrary

USCENTCOM FWD Public Affairs/ESGR Forward Team

**QATAR** – When the City of Goodyear, Ariz. has an emergency, it calls Othell T. Newbill, III. “I love my job! I still call them even while I’m over here,” declared Master Sgt. Newbill, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the installation chapel in Qatar. As the emergency management coordinator for the City of Goodyear, Newbill may inform the mayor and city council of their responsibilities during an emergency one day and then work with a neighborhood community to train personnel on assigned responsibilities as a community emergency response team the next.

Newbill not only responds to emergencies at home, but he is also available for emergencies overseas as part of the Global War on Terror. Newbill, who was originally assigned to the Coalition Forces Land Component Command upon arrival in theatre, is now attached to the Area Support Group (ASG) of the Army Central Command Headquarters in Qatar, which is also the home of the U. S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Forward. Located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla., USCENTCOM is the unified command responsible for U.S. security interests in 27 nations that stretch from the Horn of Africa (HOA) through the Arabian Gulf

region, into Central Asia. “I am the eyes and ears for the chaplain,” Newbill acknowledged.

“My responsibility is to go out and get the pulse of the troops and discern how they are doing. If I come across a problem, I try to assist that individual or, if necessary, refer him/her to the chaplain.” As important as it is to work with individuals, he must also remain aware of the recurring issues affecting personnel on base. According to Newbill, if the command has a lot of folks with the same issues, the Chaplain reports it to the Commander, who must then determine if there is a need for a sensing session or an admonition to the troops to reestablish their focus.

Though Newbill is committed to his focus overseas, he makes time to remember those at home who must focus on other important issues. Newbill’s wife, Sonji, works full-time caring for their four children, her parents and their home. “Running them around to their various activities that include: volleyball; track, soccer, and college classes leaves Sonji very little free time,” he confirmed. He added, “Keeping everything organized is a huge responsibility in itself.” Sonji is also employed part-time by St. Vincent de Paul, a charitable organization.

Newbill is the first and only one of three boys in his immediate family to serve in the military. Joining him are some cousins, who are also enlisted soldiers in the Army. “College just wasn’t working for me, he jokingly commented. I needed a change of pace and the Army gave that to me.” Conviction gleamed in Newbill’s brown eyes. He believes that everybody should give back, and for him, serving his country is a way of giving back. “I had senior NCO’s that took care of me, so my job is to take care of the soldiers that come behind me. That makes it all very rewarding,” said Newbill. His level of motivation in caring for the troops on base, is matched by his employer, who cares about him. According to Newbill, his boss, Mark Gaillard, has really been there for him. “While I was here in Qatar, we got a sinkhole in the yard. He and his teenage son went to our home, hauled dirt and filled the sinkhole on their own time, so my wife wouldn’t have to worry about it.” “My employer is a leader, as far as the respect and

commitment he provides to the military. They are very supportive from the mayor on down,” Newbill emphasized. “I have no concerns about whether my job will be there when I get home!”

Today, more than 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions on the part of everyday citizens. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is the primary resource for information about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, commonly known as USERRA. This federal law allows Newbill and other mobilized reserve component members to retain their rights, when the deployment concludes.

Established in 1972, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) a DoD agency provides free USERRA education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities is available at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil), or by calling the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at (800) 336-4590.

**Information for National ESGR Public Affairs Contact:**

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<b>Civilian Employer:</b>	<b>City of Goodyear 14000 West Yuma Road Goodyear, AZ 85338</b>
<b>Civilian Supervisor:</b>	<b>Mark Gaillard</b>
<b>Civilian Occupation:</b>	<b>Emergency Management Coordinator</b>
<b># Yrs. With Employer:</b>	<b>1 year</b>